



POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 6 Religion

Oct. 25, 1940

NEW HOPE CHURCH-- MINNEHAHA SPRINGS (LUTHERAN)

This church was built in 1893 through the efforts of Henry White, Sr., and his family who came to Douthards Creek in 1876. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. F. A. Lautenschlaeger. The ordained elders and trustees were B. Frank White and H. Lee White.

Before building the church they held occasional services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, near by churches, and in school houses. For some years after the building of the church the congregation was supplied by ministers from the South Branch charge of Highland County Virginia, of which this church was made a part. Later it was made a congregation of its own along with Valley Center Virginia. Rev. P. L. Snapp served as pastor during 1895, then Rev. S. H. Puffenberger was pastor of the church from 1900 to 1904. Since that time there has been no regular pastor, but the pulpit has been filled by an occasional visiting pastor.

In 1894, a union Sunday School was organized with S. F. Fleshman as Supt., and H. Lee White as assistant. There was an enrollment of 63 members. Since that time a Sunday School has been in progress. Some of the Supts. have been Rev. P. L. Snapp, Rev. Puffenberger, P. A. Rexrode and H. Lee White. To this time this little band of Lutherans have been loyal to the church of their choice.

Aug. 28, 1940

In 1895, the Pocahontas County Singing Association, which was quite an organization for the betterment of church music, met in this church. In 1907, a community Christmas tree and Sunday School entertainment was held here. This was the first community project carried out in the Huntersville District, and was very much enjoyed by all. On July 12, 1912, the Huntersville District Sunday School Convention was held in this church, H. Lee White was President and J. C. Harper was Secretary of the association. Again on October 6, 1919 the convention was held here. P. A. Rexrode was Pres., and G. M. Sharp was Sec.

From----- History of the Minnehaha Springs  
Community--Mrs. Sidney Wilson-1928

For the last four years the Rev. S. Kullman of Pendleton County has been pastor of this church. At the present time there are sixteen confirmed members, most of them members of the White family. The members are as follows: Mrs. H. Lee White, Arnett White, Mrs. Arnett White, Mamie White Kullman, Mrs. B. Frank White, Lucille White Pennybaker, Lloyd Pennybaker, Ruth White, Gertrude White, Mrs. Robert Hanline, Arlie White, Ernest White, Gladys White Moore, Hanson Moore, Mrs. Meade Waugh, Clarence White and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crummett.

I could find no deed to this church. It was built on land belonging to Henry White and has remained in the White family. No other denomination has ever been permitted to use this church.

None of the records are kept in the county as the pastors have always come here from Virginia or some other county. None of them have ever resided here and so far as I now know this is the only Lutheran church in the county.

Pocahontas County

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Chapter 6 - Section 2

Baxter Church - Sunnyside

The following is the history of the Baxter Church for 1939-40.

The annual Bible School was held in July. Sessions were held at night with a class for adults.

In August, 1939 the pastor's salary was increased from \$250.00 per month to \$300.00. During this month Baxter Presbyterian Church was dismissed from Home Mission Aid and became self-supporting.

In October, Rev. A. B. Shifflet was a visiting minister and held a series of services at the church. Mr. Shifflet is a man of pleasing personality and his sermons were faith building and inspiring.

During the month of November, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. A. B. Williford, the church set aside a day as the first "Day of Ingathering". At ten o'clock A.M. the congregation gathered at the church, bringing with them their "first fruits".

A short program was arranged by the pastor. Mr. Calvin Price of Marlinton was speaker. At twelve o'clock the ladies of the church set out a bountiful lunch which the whole congregation enjoyed. After lunch a sale of the farm products which were brought in was held. The sum of \$46.00 was realized. This is the beginning of what is believed to be one of the best methods of helping



to finance the work of this country church.

The church this year paid up the amount to the Lin-  
coln Annuity Fund.

August 21-25, 1939 - The minister, Rev. A. S. Williford, was  
camp director to a group of boys and girls from the  
different churches in his pastorate, at Camp Anate on Cow  
Pasture River in Virginia.